



"MESKWAKI NATION"
March 11, 2014

Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa

349 Meskwaki Road, Tama, IA 52339-9634 • (641) 484-4678 FAX (641) 484-5424

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW,
Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

Received & Inspected
MAR 19 2014
FCC Mail Room

Dear Ms. Dortch,

Please accept the Expression of Interest from the Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa (also known as Meskwaki Nation) to participate in the FCC's Rural Broadband Experiment.

Background

Fox Xchange Services (FXS), is an entity of the Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa (also known as Meskwaki Nation). The project site is located on the Meskwaki Settlement located in Tama County, approximately five (5) miles west of the town of Tama, Iowa. The Meskwaki Nation defines their land as a Settlement. This is different than a reservation because the land was purchased by the tribe and is owned by the Tribe. Whereas a reservation is land set aside by the federal Government for tribes.

FXS became operational in 3rd Quarter 2013 and consists of state of the art FTTH facilities that provides broadband Internet Services within the exterior boundaries of the Meskwaki Settlement. Very limited to no broadband existed within the Settlement prior to the tribes FTTH project. The FTTH facilities were funded through ARRA Broadband Funding, Tribal funds, and State of Iowa funds for Phase 1; and tribal investment for Phase 2. Phase 2 of the FTTH network is 95% complete. Once complete the system will provide IP based Internet services to 100% of the government, businesses, education, healthcare, public safety, and residential entities within the exterior boundaries of the Meskwaki Settlement.

The ultimate goal of the Tribe is to offer broadband service to include data, voice and video.

Geographic Territory

The Meskwaki Settlement is nested within four (4) Eligible Census Tracts as listed below, and identified on the attached map titled, "Proposed Geographic Territory," submitted as part of this Expression of Interest. The number of households and the population to be served within the proposed "Experiment" area is listed below. Additionally, they are identified on the

attached map titled, "Household & Population Data," submitted as part of this Expression of Interest.

| Eligible Census Tract | County | Experiment Area | Household/Density | Population/Density |
|-----------------------|--------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 19171290300 | Tama | Meskwaki Settlement | 339/29.27 per sq. mi. | 1062/91.71 per sq. mi. |
| 19171290400 | | | | |
| 19171290500 | | | | |
| 19171290600 | | | | |

List of Community Anchor Institutions

The Anchor Institutions to be served by the proposed "Experiment" are the following:

1. Sac & Fox Tribe of Mississippi in Iowa Tribal Government Center
2. Meskwaki Tribal Health Clinic and Pharmacy
3. Meskwaki Alcohol and Drug Abuse Center
4. Meskwaki Settlement Schools (PreK – 12) and Higher Education Program
5. Meskwaki Youth Program
6. Meskwaki Senior Services
7. Meskwaki Family Services
8. Meskwaki Child Support Services
9. Meskwaki Public Works
10. Meskwaki Housing Program
11. Meskwaki Natural Resources
12. Meskwaki Police Department
13. Meskwaki Law and Justice Center
14. Meskwaki Cultural Center and Museum
15. Meskwaki Economic Development

Proposed Technology

It is our understanding that the Sac & Fox Tribe of Mississippi in Iowa is the only tribe to date that has met FCC's Gigabit Community challenge.

The Meskwaki Nation has invested in a high-speed, scalable, and IP-based FTTH network to 100% of the homes within the Settlement. FXS Optical Distribution Network (ODN) is designed as "Home Run" architecture with dedicated fiber and 1Gbps capacity to each subscriber to support high-speed Internet service with future support for IP based voice and video services. The Broadband Access System that has been implemented provides Active Ethernet (AE) fiber access to the government, business, educational, and healthcare subscribers within the Settlement at competitive rates.

FXS proposes the next steps of implementing its next generation communication services by adding IP based voice and video services utilizing a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP)/IP network. The addition of the proposed next generation services will allow FXS to fully participate in the service-based experiments.

If selected, the Meskwaki Nation will fully participate in the FCC experiment in preserving the statutory values of the communication law which includes: public safety, universal service, competition, and consumer protection.

State and/or Local or Tribal Government Participation in and/or Support of Project

In 2010, the Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa's partnership with Iowa Communication Network (ICN) was successful in securing ARRA Broadband Funding totaling \$884,562 to place middle mile and last mile FTTH facilities on a portion of the Meskwaki Settlement. The Tribe was a Sub-Recipient of the ARRA Broadband Partnership, invested \$279,940 as their contribution to the project, and owns 100% of their FTTH facilities. Additionally, the State of Iowa contributed \$99,158 to the project. This portion of the project is defined as Phase 1 and is 100% complete at a total investment of \$1,263,660.

Phase 2 of the project began in 3rd Quarter 2013 to build out FTTH facilities to the remaining CAI's, businesses, and residents within the Meskwaki Settlement. To complete this phase of the FTTH project the Tribe invested \$1.1M. Phase 2 is 95% complete and will be finalized in 2nd Quarter 2014.

A Feasibility Study for FXS is underway and will be completed in May 2014. The Feasibility Study considers providing new services that include video and IP based voice services.

The Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa respectfully submit that the FCC interpret and apply its governing statutes and regulations to this filing in a "manner that comports with tribal sovereignty and the federal policy of empowering tribal independence" as outlined in the Twelfth Report & Order. [1]

Existing Providers

The Meskwaki Settlement consists of 11.58 square miles and is served by Windstream Iowa-Communications, Inc. (LEC) within SAC 351167. Windstream Communications is a Price Cap Carrier.

The copper facilities maintained by GTE and acquired by Iowa Telecommunication Services prior to being purchased by Windstream has had minimal investments throughout the course of these transactions. While Windstream does provide DSL services within the Settlement, their antiquated copper facilities hinder broadband access to those who live and work within the Meskwaki Settlement.

Through the FTTH investment that has been made to date the Meskwaki Nation has positioned themselves to provide ubiquitous broadband service throughout the Settlement. The FTTH system provides a dedicated 1Gbps capacity to each subscriber from the Optical Line Terminal (OLT) to the subscriber's Optical Network Terminal (ONT).

[1] Twelfth Report and Order, FCC Rcd 12208 at Para. 119

Project Timeline

The feasibility study is underway that will determine the sustainability of the implementation of the Next Generation (NG) communication services over the existing FTTH network and will be completed in May of 2014. If the Next Generation Network Experiment (NGNE) funding becomes available in 2015 or sooner, the project implementation will be initiated.

If funded through NGNE, it is projected that the implementation of the NG communication services will be completed and participation of the FCC experiment will begin within eight to ten months of funding.

Scalability

The existing FTTH network in terms of connectivity and capacity is future-proof and scalable. The FXS Optical Distribution Network has been designed for future expansion of the fiber network. The Broadband Access System is a Calix E7-20 which has the capacity to support the network expansion with the addition of GE-24X cards.

Total Utility Investment

The total utility investment will be determined when the feasibility study is complete in May of 2014. FXS will provide 10 Year pro forma financial statements if requested by the FCC. The pro forma statements will be completed in two versions, with and without Connect America Funding.

One Time Capital Infrastructure Investment Needed

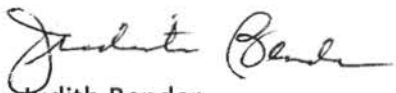
The one time capital investment will be determined when the feasibility study is complete in May of 2014.

Total Project Cost

The total project implementation costs for Next Generation Services will be determined when the feasibility study is complete in May of 2014.

In conclusion, we look forward to the implementation of the FCC's Rural Broadband Experiment Program.

Sincerely,



Judith Bender
Chairwoman

63



A 100% Tribal Owned Entity

19171290600

GT-1

HOUSEHOLD & POPULATION DATA

ECT: 19171290300

ECT: 19171290400

MESKWAKI NATION SETTLEMENT

Total House Units = 339
Population = 1062

ECT: 19171290500

ECT: 19171290600

LEGEND

 MESKWAKI NATION SETTLEMENT

- Household Units
- Tribal Buildings

Eligible Census Tract (ECT)

 19171290300

 19171290400

 19171290500

 19171290600

Fox Xchange Services

349 Meskwaki Road
Tama, IA 52339

A 100% Tribal Owned Entity

Prepared By: MLY-TICOM, Inc.

Date: March 10, 2014

Drawing No:

HPD-1



0 0.2 0.4 0.8 1.2 1.6 Miles